CANOEING ALONG NICARAGUA.

Adventures on Sea and Shore Among the Mosquito Indians.

By DR. J. HAMPDEN PORTER.

During a whole day's journey we giided onward over the little river's gleaming curves. It was twilight always under those dark, overhanging boughs. The taci-

Night had no sooner fallen than their those dense, intensely dark equatoria nights scarcely seen beyond the tropical circles. An immense fire blazed, however, those dark, overhanging boughs. The taciturn Indians kept silence, and hour by hour a sense of being wafted into solitudes where man had never intruded became more impressive.

Without doubt there were tigers closer by, but these wild men of ours were going to some place they knew—a small settlement of their own tribesmen at the forest's verge. Thus, as day declined and shadows deepened, clearer spaces of sky revealed themselves, while vistas opened here and there, until at length bread sa-



When that village where our march endwhen that village where our march ended was reached, its inhabitants proved to be much wrought up about jaguars. These implacable and desfructive enemies had been of late intolerable, and all their warriors were now resolved to fight, despite toil, danger, and dread of supernatural

powers, had been going on for days, and jaguars would almost certainly be lying such an impossible statement, now here we came as an assurance that up.

vannahs spread before us, and on the young. Barbaric shapes, masked like de-western horizon rose a faint blue range of mons and horribly bedaubed, flitted mountains. ately intent upon this scenic mimiery. Each man thrilled with excitement at his part, all were dominated by inheritances

from an immemorial savagery which broke forth in every jesture, attitude, and intonation, as they denced the tiger hunt. Everything was inimitably portrayed, and when the beast died amid yells of

of which they knew so little, but surrounded in superstitious fancy with heaven
knows what grotesque and awe-inspired
imaginations, excited an unlimited confidence. Incantations, prayers to all the

unreclaimed brute needs to know so much, and that is the reason why primitive men cannot account for their fatal sagacity otherwise than by supposing them to be possessed by evil spirits. Seeing the deeds they do, the strategy and malignity possessed by eth sparks. Seeing the decessions they do, the strategy and malignity evinced in attack or evasion, a Mosquito Coast Indian cannot think anything else, so that it would be perfectly useless to argue with him.

Towards noon the woodlands ended in the most like country country.

a fine park-like country opening out to-wards both north and west as far as one could see. Its rolling grassy savannahs were set with clumps of forest growths; flowers in profusion, though mostly scent-less, grew everywhere, while those swales nuing between round-backed ridges metimes sank into deep, narrow valleys

or even ravines.

A short, very much broken line of crags with tree and thicket-clothed buttresses, had been rising before us for several hours. The place looked decidedly "tigerish," and when we arrived, its appearance became still more satisfactory. or even ravines. Rough gorges ran among the weather-worn rocks, rivulets trickled beneath dense thickets here and there, forming pools in open spaces; moreover, looking at the barren, steep cliffs, we saw that many were terraced by the action of weather, several being hollowed into -s, whose dark mouths blotched their gray surfaces.

Truly, this was a promising spot, and our attendants confidently expected to find jaguars. These latter, however, are almost always inhabitants of forested country, so we were not completely remsured until plenty of great oval pugs like the footbories of a terms were found in the footprints of a tigress were found in the first guich explored.

At this time we had quite a large party,

the majority of whom did not intend going any further. These men brought numerous curs with them—"tiger dogs" as they called the wretched mongreis with reference to such aids it may be said once for all, that although they are employed constantly throughout Central and outh America, none repay the trouble of oringing them up.

No hounds of any native breed will fol

low juguars. These dogs clamor about their master, never venturing into the jun-gle by themselves.

On this occasion our canine attendants On this occasion our canne attendants did some good by making a noise; but we were beating for game then, a mode of hunting scarcely ever practiced in these latitudes. The gorge was well adapted to that method, however, and our Indians, pleased with its novelty, and quickly com-prehending those few instructions it had

been necessary to give, soon went off.

Left alone we looked to the rifles, picked out position such as would ensure a cross-fire, and then got behind bushes to await developments. Deep silence reigned, but it was at length broken by a reigned, but it was at length broken by a solitary cry of mingled fear and anger, quickly followed by the whole pack giving tongue. Indian yells joined in and before long a magnificent roar pealed high above all other sounds, telling us that our game

was afoot and coming.

He knew none of those tricks big
Asiatic cats acquire. Straight and boldly
the beast advanced not expecting to meet
an enemy, and as we stepped out when seeing the flash of his tawny hide, that pause he made was more in astonishment than apprehension. Moreover, it did not last long. Rage took its place with great

The fierce brute's dilated form and blazing eyes well entitled him to be called tiger. A moment more passed while this group stood rigid; then short, hourse quickly-repeated roars broke from his chest and he charged. There would have been no excuse for missing, as it was open ground, and the rush lacked that wonderful, often confusing swiftness, with which other great felines dart upon their adversaries. Two heavy balls tore through It is not difficult to imagine what ex-ultation our coming caused. Two white strangers with those wonderful firearms out when the bear and the bear

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surmounting crags and clear skies arched above, but northward a storm gathered, and broad lightnings flashed upwards from the horizon.

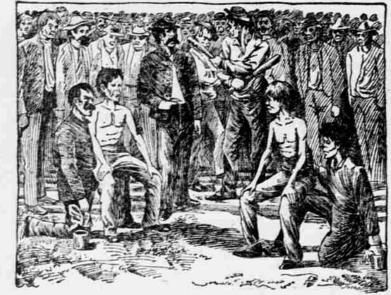
Now he knew this to have been sent as a warning; then the ignorance of youth blinded him, and his father saw nothing, being snared by demons stronger than any that he controlled.

They got up a tree, climbed out on one of its limbs, and fixed an enchanted shield so as to prevent the demoniac brute from following. Presently it roared within, dence. Incantations, prayers of any powers, and been going on for days, and now here we came as an assurance that however effective. The rings first those were effective, active with them, received every token of disguished consideration. Nothing more was wanted to considerate of the received with they are to special most the subject of the properties of the properties

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